AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (allowed)

8. (Amended) A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:

a seat support disposed generally along a longitudinal axis;

a strapping mechanism operatively attached to the seat support member for operatively attaching the seat support to a tree;

a seat operatively attached to a top portion of the seat support;

a platform operatively [(]pivotally[)] attached to a bottom portion of the seat support, said platform having a top portion for permitting a person to stand thereon;

at least one member operatively attached to the seat support and to the platform to hold the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support;

an upper leveler mechanism operatively attached to said seat support and engageable with said tree for adjusting the position of the seat support between a first position and a second position with respect to the tree, said first position being closer to the tree than the second position thereof;

wherein said upper leveler mechanism includes a first and second sleeve and a respective first and second upper stanchion each mounted for selective movement within the respective first and second sleeve, each of the first and second sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second upper stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree; and

a locking mechanism for selectively and operatively locking the upper leveler mechanism in a selected one of the first or second positions thereof.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Amended) The tree stand of claim 8 including an independent locking mechanism for each sleeve whereby the first stanchion can be in a different locked position with respect to the second stanchion.

11. (Original) The tree stand of claim 8 wherein there is a second member operatively attached to the seat support and to the platform to hold the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support.

12. (Amended) A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:

a seat support disposed generally along a longitudinal axis;

a strapping mechanism operatively attached to the seat support member for operatively attaching the seat support to a tree;

a seat operatively attached to a top portion of the seat support;

a platform operatively attached to a bottom portion of the seat support, said platform having a top portion for permitting a person to stand thereon, a front portion, a rear portion, a first side and a second side, said rear portion having a left side and a right side;

a lower leveler mechanism including left and right side structural members, each being operatively attached to said platform for independently adjusting the position of a respective left and right rear portion of the platform between a first lower leveler mechanism position and a second lower leveler mechanism position with respect to the tree, wherein the first lower leveler mechanism position is closer to the tree than the second lower leveler mechanism position thereof whereby the platform can be leveled with respect to the left and the right side thereof;

a left and right side locking mechanism of the respective lower leveler mechanism members for selectively and operatively locking the respective lower leveler members in a selected one of the first or second lower leveler mechanism positions thereof;

members operatively attached to left and right sides respectively of an upper portion of the seat support and to the platform for holding the top portion of the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support;

an upper leveler mechanism operatively attached to said seat support and to said tree for adjusting the position of the seat support between a first upper leveler mechanism position and a second upper leveler mechanism position with respect to the tree, said first upper leveler mechanism position being closer to the tree than the second upper leveler position thereof whereby the platform can be leveled with respect to the front and the back thereof; and

a locking mechanism for the upper leveler mechanism for selectively and operatively locking the upper leveler mechanism in a selected one of the first or second positions thereof.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Amended) The tree stand of claim 12 wherein said upper leveler mechanism includes a first and second sleeve and a respective first and second upper stanchion each mounted for selective sliding movement with respect to the respective first and second sleeve, each of the first and second sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second upper stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree.

15. (Original) The tree stand of claim 14 including an independent locking mechanism for each sleeve whereby the first stanchion can be in a different locked position with respect to the second stanchion.

16. (Original) The tree stand of claim 15 wherein the independent locking mechanism can be used to lock the first stanchion with respect to the sleeve in more positions than just said first and second positions thereof.

17. (Original) The tree stand of claim 10 wherein the independent locking mechanism can be used to lock the first stanchion with respect to the sleeve in more positions than just said first and second positions thereof.

18. (New) A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:

a seat support disposed generally along a longitudinal axis, said seat support having a top portion and a bottom portion;

a strapping mechanism operatively attached to the seat support member for operatively attaching the seat support to a tree;

a seat operatively attached to the top portion of the seat support;

a platform operatively attached to a bottom portion of the seat support, said platform having a top portion for permitting a person to stand thereon, a front portion, a rear portion, a first side and a second side, said rear portion having a left side and a right side;

members operatively attached to left and right sides respectively of an upper portion of the seat support and to the platform for holding the top portion of the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support;

an upper leveler mechanism operatively attached to a portion of said seat support and being disposed a substantial distance above the bottom of the seat support, said upper leveler mechanism being engageable with said tree for adjusting the position of the top portion of the seat support between a first upper leveler mechanism position and a second upper leveler mechanism position with respect to the tree, said first upper leveler mechanism position being closer to the tree than the second upper leveler position thereof whereby the platform can be leveled with respect to the front and the back thereof; and

a locking mechanism for the upper leveler mechanism for selectively and operatively locking the upper leveler mechanism in a selected one of the first or second positions thereof.

19. (New) The tree stand of claim 18 wherein said upper leveler mechanism includes at least one sleeve operatively attached to the seat support and at least one stanchion receivable within said at least one sleeve, said stanchion being mounted for selective movement within the sleeve.

20. (New) A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:

a seat support disposed generally along a longitudinal axis;

a strapping mechanism operatively attached to the seat support member for operatively attaching the seat support to a tree;

a seat operatively attached to a top portion of the seat support;

a platform operatively attached to a bottom portion of the seat support, said platform having a top portion for permitting a person to stand thereon;

at least one member operatively attached to the seat support and to the platform to hold the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support;

a leveler mechanism operatively attached to said seat support and engageable with said tree for adjusting the position of the seat support between a first position and a second position with respect to the tree, said first position being closer to the tree than the second position thereof;

wherein said leveler mechanism includes a first and second sleeve and a respective first and second stanchion each mounted for selective movement within the respective first and second sleeve, each of the first and second sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support,

the first and second stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree; and

a locking mechanism for selectively and operatively locking the leveler mechanism in a selected one of the first or second positions thereof.